

# WILDLIFE INCIDENT UNIT

12/25



Original thinking... applied

## WILDLIFE INCIDENT REPORT

INCIDENT NUMBER 12/25  
PART OF STUDY WIIS25  
REGIONAL NUMBER W/25/04  
OTHER REFERENCES 28-B0058-01-25  
SENDER APHA Carmarthen VIC  
LOCATION Penhow  
Monmouthshire  
GRID REFERENCE ST4289  
INCIDENT DATE 19 January 2025  
SUSPECTED CAUSE OF INCIDENT background residue  
DATE OF REPORT 24 April 2025

REPORTING OFFICER

SIGNED :

### NUMBERS AND SPECIES INVOLVED

2 buzzard

COPIED TO

[Redacted recipient information]

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Samples received		Date received	Sample identifier	
101695	buzzard	12/2/25	APHA ref: 28-B0058-01-25 Ref bird1	
101695	buzzard	tissues	12/2/25	APHA ref: 28-B0058-01-25 Ref bird1
101696	buzzard	12/2/25	APHA ref: 28-B0058-01-25 Ref bird 2	
101696	buzzard	tissues	12/2/25	APHA ref: 28-B0058-01-25 Ref bird 2

## Summary of field data

Two buzzards were found dead at two different field entrances to one woodland, less than 250m apart. There were no obvious signs of injury or trauma on the carcasses, and both were found on their backs. There is a pheasant shoot close to where the buzzards were found. This is a rural area surrounded by farmland (arable and pasture) and large pockets of woodland. There are several farms with associated buildings in the area.

## Summary of post mortem report

Two buzzards were submitted dead for post-mortem examination. Brain, cloacal and oro-pharyngeal swabs were taken from both carcasses for AI testing, no Influenza A viral RNA was detected. Bird 1 was of unknown sex in fat body condition with mild autolysis. From the beak down to the gizzard, the gastro-intestinal tract was impacted with a mass of fat, macerated pink muscle like tissue, dark feathers; one small eye socket and a small larynx were also identifiable. Other organ systems examined were unremarkable. Bird 2 was male in emaciated body condition with moderate autolysis. The keel was very prominent. The crop, proventriculus and gizzard were empty. There was dark brown paste lining the gizzard mucosa and scant intestinal content. Other organ systems examined were unremarkable. Bird 1 was in good condition and had recently ingested a very large amount of food. The cause of death was not apparent. Bird 2 was emaciated and had not recently eaten. It is likely that starvation contributed to the death of bird 2.

## Analysis : metaldehyde & carb (LC) analysis suite

101695	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.04	mg/kg
101696	stomach contents	no metaldehyde & carb (LC) detected	detection limit	0.1	mg/kg

## Analysis : organophosphate analysis suite

101695	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	0.5	mg/kg
101696	stomach contents	no organophosphate detected	detection limit	2	mg/kg

## Analysis : rodenticide & chloralose analysis suite

101695	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.00066	mg/kg
101695	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00015	mg/kg
101696	liver	difenacoum	confirmed	0.0035	mg/kg
101696	liver	bromadiolone	confirmed	0.00049	mg/kg
101696	liver	brodifacoum	confirmed	0.0013	mg/kg

## Conclusion

It was suspected that these buzzards had been poisoned, as they were found at the same time very close to each other. Laboratory analysis for a range of likely pesticides has been undertaken on the submitted samples from both buzzards. These tests have detected and confirmed residues of difenacoum and bromadiolone in the livers of both buzzards, and an additional residue of brodifacoum in the liver of bird 2. However, the amounts found are consistent with exposure levels only and they are not considered to be the cause of death of the bird. Therefore, the cause of death of these buzzard remains uncertain, though bird 2 is likely to have died from starvation.

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